

HOW TO CREEP PEOPLE OUT IN 12 EASY STEPS

The Bonehead's Guide To Blowing First Dates

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[Note: This report is an excerpt from *Never Ever Settle*, the companion guide to the upcoming VIRTUOSITY advanced series]

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Have you ever been out on a date and things were just a little, well...*off*? There was just some “vibe” in the air that was decidedly causing you to be having no fun whatsoever. I think you know exactly what I mean. Maybe you just couldn't quite put a finger on just what it was that was making you uncomfortable, but you had a feeling your instincts just couldn't be lying to you. THEN...it happened...either your date said something or did something that just broke things wide open. And you couldn't wait to get OUT. What happened?

You had the classic “heebie-jeebies”, that's what. Today's topic turned out to be way too complex to fit in a single newsletter, so this is the first in a two-part series.

So how do we define being “creeped out” anyway? Check this out:

hee-bie-jee-bies - [Show Spelled Pronunciation](#)**[hee-bee-jee-beez]** [Pronunciation Key](#) - [Show IPA Pronunciation](#)

-noun (used with a plural verb) Slang.

a condition of extreme nervousness caused by fear, worry, strain, etc.; the jitters; the willies (usually prec. by *the*): *Just thinking about ghosts gives me the heebie-jeebies.*

[Origin: 1905-10, *American*; rhyming compound coined by W. De Beck (1890-1942), American comic-strip cartoonist]

I don't care if the term was coined by a comic-strip cartoonist, it's not funny. When the above happens, YOU my friend have been CREEPED OUT.

Gnarly.

It's bad enough to have been “creeped out” on a date or two in your life. What's even worse is if you happen to have been the one who is DOING the creeping. Have you ever thought of that?

I think everyone fully realizes when he or she is being creeped out. But who genuinely realizes when *they are the ones* who are coming off as creepy? Unfortunately, my guess is *almost nobody*.

So how do you get a handle on this? Well, if you have been going on a lot of first dates that don't turn in to second dates this topic is worth a *hard look*. If you are going on a lot of first dates that seem to *start well* and somewhere take a turn for the worse mid-stream this topic is worth an *even harder look*. And this holds true no matter what gender you are. Yes ladies—guys can and do get fully creeped out also.

There are a “dirty dozen” factors that have a very high probability of giving your date the “willies”. Today, let's cover the first half:

1) Invading space

Standard procedure here is, of course, eighteen inches of space between you and a stranger. On a first date situation you absolutely, positively want to honor that. There is nothing creepier than someone who is getting way too close too quickly. When seated at a restaurant or a movie (which I hope all who are reading are sensible enough to avoid on a first date), be sure not to crowd the space there either, generally speaking.

Oh yes, and avoid invading space for the rest of the date also until you are sure there is chemistry. Then start with hand holding, please.

2) Touchy-feelies

This factor, although similar to the first, is decidedly different. Recently I was asked about how to greet a person you are meeting for the first time on a first date. My recommendation is not to push for a hug, while remembering that handshakes on dates are lame also. Guys, if a woman offers a handshake when you first meet her, do us all a favor and either tease her for it or grab the hand and lift it to your mouth, kissing the back of your own hand instead. Anything but a handshake.

To be honest, nobody ever said you had to touch someone as soon as you meet him or her, although you wouldn't know this given the number of men in particular who want to grab women's hands and not let go, hug them, rub shoulders and all sorts of other invariably creepy things. Perhaps the concept

of not having to touch someone upon meeting them will be tremendously freeing for you.

Guys, wanting to touch and/or hold onto women you barely know is a bad idea all the time. I've even known men who meet a woman, take her hand and proceed to play with her fingers and what not during the entire (brief) time he is talking to her. Wow. Creepy.

3) Eccentricities

You know, it's true that individualism is a good thing. Most of us like someone who isn't generic. That makes this point a particularly difficult one to convey effectively. Yet, I'm going to try. Essentially, if you are wearing, saying or doing something that almost nobody else does, the chances are good that you are creeping dates out. If this applies to you and you aren't getting any dates at all, so much more so the probability.

For example, some women wear black nail polish. That's individualistic. Almost no men do, especially if they are not Dennis Rodman and dressed normally otherwise. That would be creepy because the whole picture is incongruous. See what I mean? In case you don't, here's another example. Some people use the word "famously" instead of "fantastically". It's actually somewhat unusual for a woman to do so, maybe saying, "You and I are going to get along famously." I actually find that usage of the word endearing. Now if she punctuated every sentence with "famously", that would be creepy. And like "darling", it's also just one of those words that's flat-out wrong for a man to use. By the way, why is it always the guys driving Porsche 911s who talk like that, babe?

4) Disgusting habits

One time a woman told me that she gave a date her business card at dinner and he proceeded to clean his fingernails with it while they were talking. Oh no he didn't. Yeah...he did. Crazy.

There is an endless supply of examples here, most of which would be self-explanatory. But here are some ideas anyway. Don't spit while on a date. Ever. Especially *at* your date. Say it, don't spray it, okay? Please wash your hands after going to the lavatory. Don't pick at the back of your pants or your

crotch (guys especially). If you haven't ever studied table manners, chances are yours need work. Get a book and learn.

And for heaven's sake, use a Kleenex.

5) Strange nervous habits

Fidgets, funny laughs, rubbing hands, etc. all classify as such. Most nervous habits are as individual as the person performing them, but they invariably make the other person equally nervous. So stop it. Not only are weird nervous idiosyncrasies creepy, they convey an utter lack of confidence. That's a tough "double whammy" to overcome when trying to attract someone, right? Pay particular attention to the "vibrating leg" thing that often happens when seated. You know, when you just have to bounce your leg up and down for no reason. Stop that.

Remember, women follow a man's lead. Are you leading her into an all-important state of being comfortable with you? That's job one.

6) Fishy-eyed stares

OK, here it is. Yes, "eye-contact" is a good thing when showing someone you are interested. Please, however, be sure to actually look away *sometimes*. And do us all a favor and BLINK, finally, will you?

This point holds true whether you are on a date or in any social setting, actually. One time while I was still working in the IT world, I was at a business meeting of about 15 or 20 people all seated around a big table. I looked over at one point and my boss was giving me the glazed-over fisheye treatment. I'm not sure if he was just so bored he had simply lapsed into Neverland or what, but the impact on me was significant enough that I still remember it. Eeesh.

So there are the first half-dozen sure-fire ways to creep out your date (or anyone, for that matter). Note that the six we discussed above are tied to actions and/or appearance. Next, we'll hit a half-dozen points related to the words you use.

It is my most sincere hope that all of you who are reading this can find more productive things to talk about on a first date than what is covered below. Actually, ANYTHING would be better.

7) Describing what or who you “hate” in lurid detail

I suppose a rant about negative complainers is somewhat hypocritical, right? Chalk it up to making a point and forgive me. After all, I love everyone. Nonetheless, people who go on and on about who they hold grudges against, stuff that really peeves them, and the like end up making their dates' skin crawl. It's just an uncomfortable feeling to hang out with someone who is such a downer. And you can't help but think how much of a drag it would be to get on this person's bad side, although you would think that has to be inevitable eventually.

8) Talking about your mother too much

It's pretty boring when women do this on dates, but if a man does it he at best looks like a “mama's boy”. At worst he looks like Norman Bates. Ouch. Family ties are always good, but leave Mom at home on first dates. Ironically enough, it's a lot easier for both genders to talk about their Dads and look good. Strange, huh?

9) Talking about medical problems

Talking about doctor's visits, health problems, what hurts and how sick you got a week ago is a bummer. Some of the more mature adults who are in the dating world are the ones who report this happening the most. That doesn't mean that it's unheard of in the younger crowd. I personally went on a first date once where the woman went on and on—over dinner--about having chronic kidney stones. She talked about how painful it was, and how she had to pass one the size of a pea. While still talking, she produced a medicine vial, which I assumed contained her meds. How wrong I was. She poured out the *actual kidney stones* into her hand! I can't really describe the feeling I had at that moment. “Creeped out” comes pretty darned close.

10) Abrupt motions and/or mood changes

Have you ever been around someone who is mellow and laid back, and all of the sudden they “wake up” or something and become really animated? If you have, you realize how startling and freaky it can be. Even stranger is when someone goes from being calm and pleasant to being excitable and angry virtually on the fly. That kind of “Jekyll And Hyde” stuff will strongly encourage dates to run away.

11) Blatant contradictions in behavior or words

If someone says he or she is a certain way and then behaves in an opposite manner, it confuses others and likely caused them to be very suspect of his or her intentions. Personal integrity may even be questioned. Consistency is always a plus when dating. For example, if you say you “don’t drink”, it’s not a good idea to drain six martinis and get wasted a few hours later. This causes a date to wonder exactly who it is he or she is hanging out with...which is an unsettling feeling.

12) Going on and on about exes—especially creepy ones

We all know that it’s a bad idea to talk about exes on first dates. But that doesn’t stop people. It’s especially troublesome, however, to hear about having been abused, stalked or other wise freaked out by someone in the past. In fact, it creeps out the person who has to endure hearing about it.

13)*BONUS* Asking inappropriate questions

We have all been on our fair share of “interview dates”. Those aren’t fun. But as soon someone starts asking particularly inappropriate questions of someone he or she barely knows things go south particularly quickly. Nothing puts ants in your date’s pants like being put on the spot, let alone when the expected answer involves information of an entirely too personal nature.

So there you have it, the second half of the “dirty dozen”. Make it a “baker’s dirty dozen”. If you are like me, reading the two articles in this series back-to-back in

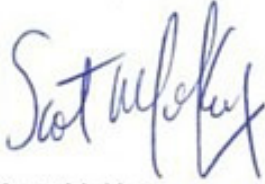
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and of itself has been enough to make me want to scrub my hands with sandpaper and spray "Raid" in my boxers.

Seriously though, I realize this all takes a lot of courage to even consider, but it's worth doing so. WHOA yeah, is it worth doing so—that's an understatement! Just looking at the list we just covered drives home the point of how truly easy it is to blow a first date. It's disarmingly easy to make a little blunder that kills attraction, and the truth is we've all been guilty on rare occasions. If there are "recurring difficulties" however, I can't think of a bigger issue tied to derailing your entire dating life than this one. Deserving what you want dictates "creep factor elimination" as a prerequisite.

Be Good,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scot McKay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Scot" and "McKay" being capitalized and prominent.

Scot McKay

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